



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

Raised Bill No. 5902

LCO No. 2931

02931_____PH_

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING HOSPITAL STAFFING AND PATIENT ACCESS
TO DEEP SEDATION AND GENERAL ANESTHESIA.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section:

3 (1) "Department" means the Department of Public Health; and

4 (2) "Hospital" means an establishment for the lodging, care and
5 treatment of persons suffering from disease or other abnormal physical
6 or mental conditions and includes inpatient psychiatric services in
7 general hospitals.

8 (b) On and after July 1, 2009, each hospital licensed by the
9 department pursuant to chapter 368v of the general statutes shall, as a
10 condition of continued licensure, submit to the department a
11 prospective nurse staffing plan with a written certification that the
12 nurse staffing plan is sufficient to provide adequate and appropriate
13 delivery of health care services to patients in the ensuing period of
14 licensure. Such plan shall promote a collaborative practice in the

15 hospital that enhances patient care and the level of services provided
16 by nurses and other members of the hospital's patient care team.

17 (c) Each hospital shall establish a hospital staffing committee to
18 assist in the preparation of the nurse staffing plan required pursuant to
19 subsection (b) of this section. Registered nurses employed by the
20 hospital to provide direct patient care shall account for not less than
21 fifty per cent of the membership of each hospital's staffing committee.
22 Each hospital, in collaboration with its staffing committee, shall
23 develop and implement the prospective nurse staffing plan. Such plan
24 shall: (1) Include the minimum professional skill mix for each patient
25 care unit in the hospital, including, but not limited to, inpatient
26 services, critical care and the emergency department; (2) identify the
27 hospital's employment practices concerning the use of temporary and
28 traveling nurses; (3) set forth the level of administrative staffing in
29 each patient care unit of the hospital that ensures direct care staff are
30 not utilized for administrative functions; (4) set forth the hospital's
31 process for internal review of the nurse staffing plan; (5) identify
32 collective bargaining agreements that the hospital is a party to and
33 certify the hospital's compliance with such agreements; and (6) include
34 the hospital's mechanism of obtaining input from direct care staff,
35 including nurses and other members of the hospital's patient care
36 team, in the development of a nurse staffing plan.

37 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) Each individual health
38 insurance policy providing coverage of the type specified in
39 subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469 of the general
40 statutes delivered, issued for delivery, amended, renewed or
41 continued in this state on or after October 1, 2008, shall provide
42 coverage for a medically appropriate level of deep sedation or general
43 anesthesia for any medical procedure requiring such sedation or
44 anesthesia.

45 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) Each group health insurance
46 policy providing coverage of the type specified in subdivisions (1), (2),

47 (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469 of the general statutes delivered,
48 issued for delivery, amended, renewed or continued in this state on or
49 after October 1, 2008, shall provide coverage for a medically
50 appropriate level of deep sedation or general anesthesia for any
51 medical procedure requiring such sedation or anesthesia.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To ensure adequate staffing in our hospitals and better plan for future nursing needs.